

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02

AEC-11 EB-11 CIEP-02 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /213 W

----- 027532

R 241345Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1659

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NY 1645

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PARM, IN

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REACTION TO INDIAN TEST

1. "CANADA SUSPENDS NUCLEAR AID TO INDIA" WAS LEAD HEADLINE
IN A NUMBER OF DELHI PAPERS MAY 24. REPORTS ASID OFFICIAL
COMMENT ON CANADA'S "OVER-REACTION" TO THE INDIAN TEST WAS
BEING WITHHELD IN THE HOPE CANADA WOULD COME TO SEE THE MATTER
IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

2. TIMES OF INDIA COMMENTARY SIAD INDIAN AUTHORITIES WERE
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DISTRESSED THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY SHARP HAD ASKED INDIA TO

SEND HIGH OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. NO SOVEREIGN COUNTRY HAS TO EXPLAIN ITS DECISIONS ON POLICY MATTERS TO A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING ANYONE TO OTTAWA WAS RELEED OUT. MR. SHARP'S STATEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN INDIA WAS CONSIDERED MISPLACED AND UNCHARITABLE. CANADA'S CALL TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR JOINT CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE INDIAN TEST WAS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO PUNISH INDIA WITH MEASURES THAT WOULD HUMBLE HER. EDITORIAL RECALLED CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP; IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE CANADA WOULD TURN ITS BACK ON INDIA BECAUSE OF THE TEST; FRIENDLY COUNTRIES THAT WANT TO ENSURE MODERATION OF INDIAN POLICIES WILL DO WELL NOT TO RESORT TO PRESSURE TACTICS.

3. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES SAID DELHI IS LIKELY TO TAKE STEPS TO REMOVE THE CANADIAN CONCERN. OTTAWA HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A DETAILED ACCOUNT TO SHOW INDIA HAD SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERED TO INDO-CANADIAN AGREEMENTS. WHILE HINDUSTAN TIMES EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT IMPACT ON CANADIAN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, IT OPINED, AS DID OTHER PAPERS, THAT SUSPENSION OF CANADIAN AID WOULD NOT AFFECT INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

4. G.K. REDDY IN THE HINDU NOTED "PECUAIAR" SITUATION THAT INDIA HAVING TO DEAL WITH MUCH STRONGER STRICTURES FROM COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO ITS ASPIRATIONS--LIKE CANADA, SWEDEN AND JAPAN--THAN BIG POWERS, AND NOTED SPECIFICALLY "MUTED TONE" OF CENTO COMMUNIQUE. REDDY SAID GOI WAS NOT JOINING ISSUE WITH CANADA OVER "EXTRAORDINARY STAND" IT HAS TAKEN BECAUSE IT ASSUMED CANADIAN LANGUAGE AND POSITION IN SUBSTANTIAL PART DUE TO ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN PROCESS IN CANADA AS WELL AS CANADIAN MORAL DILEMMA ON NUCLEAR QUESTION. CHAIRMAN ON INDIAN AEC HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE A DETAILED REPORT SHOWING NO VIOLATION OF AGREEMENTS WITH CANADA OR MISUES OF CANADIAN TECHNOLOGY. INDIAN ASSUME SUSPENSION OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE WILL BE SORTED OUT TO MUTUAL SATISFACTION.

5. CANADIAN ACTING HICOMM TOLD EMBOFF MAY 24 THAT UNLESS INDIANS PRESENTED UNEQUIVOCAL EVIDENCE TO CANADIANS THAT CANADIAN CIRUS REACTOR HAD NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN PRODUCING ANY OF MATERIAL FOR INDIAN TEST (WHICH HE STRONGLY DOUBTED INDIANS COULD DO), HE HAD LITTLE EXPECTATION THAT PROVISION OF CANADIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE OR MATERIAL WOULD BE RESUMED. HE CONFIRMED THAT \$9 MILLION OF DEBT DUE ON COMMERCIAL CREDITS GUARANTEED BY GOC WOULD NOT BE ROLLED OVER AT CONSORTIUM MEETING AND THAT THIS REPRESENTED BULK OF ACTUAL CANADIAN DEBT WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN UP FOR RESCHEDULING.
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